

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A set top terminal for generating an interactive electronic program guide for display on a television connected to the set top terminal, the terminal comprising:

means for retrieving information via a program control information signal of a program selected from a plurality of programs and watched by a subscriber;

means for storing said information;

means for identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by said subscriber based upon said stored information;

means for receiving a television signal;

means for extracting individual programs from the television signal;

means for generating an electronic program guide for controlling display of content on a television screen, the guide comprising:

a favorites menu including names of programs available for selection, wherein the programs included in the favorites menu are based on the identified frequently-watched programs; and

means for receiving selection signals from a user input of a program that will be broadcast at a future time selected from said favorites menu;

means for notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is eminent based upon nearing said future time of said program that will be broadcast at said future time;
and

means for changing said channel to said program at said future time.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 1, further comprising means for storing in memory identifiers of the frequently-watched programs.

4. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the means for retrieving said information includes means for identifying frequently-watched channels and means for storing in memory the frequently-watched channels.

5. (original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the menu includes a list of frequently-watched programs.

6. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the means for generating includes means for generating the favorites menu to display programs selected by the means for identifying.

7. (currently amended) A set top terminal comprising:
means for receiving information via a program control information signal about television viewing preferences of a subscriber;

a memory that stores the information;

means for identifying frequently-watched programs most often watched by said subscriber based upon said stored information;

means for receiving a television signal from an operations center;

means for extracting from the signal individual programs for display on a television associated with the terminal; and

means for generating an interactive program menu on the television, listing a group of available programs, the group being selected based on said identified frequently-watched programs;

means for receiving a signal from a user input device selecting a program available at a future time selected from said group of identified frequently-watched programs;

means for notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is eminent based upon nearing said future time of said selected program available at said future time; and

means for changing said channel to said selected program at said future time.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (original) The terminal of claim 7, wherein the television viewing preferences include frequently-watched channels.

11. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 7, wherein the means for receiving information comprises means for automatically tracking information related to viewing habits of the subscribers subscriber.

12. (original) The terminal of claim 11, wherein the means for automatically tracking comprises means for automatically tracking information related to frequently-watched programs or frequently-watched channels, or both.

13. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 7, wherein the means for receiving information comprises means for activating a learning mode and means for receiving the respective subscriber information while the learning mode is activated.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The terminal of claim 7, further comprising:
means for receiving program content information for the individual programs from the operations center,

wherein the means for generating comprises means for generating the menu including ~~programs~~ said identified frequently-watched programs.

16. (currently amended) A set top terminal for generating a customized menu of available programs for selection by a user, the terminal comprising:

means for receiving a television signal;

means for extracting individual programs from the television signal;

means for matching individual programs to said user based upon information received via a program control information signal about television viewing preferences of said user used to identify frequently-watched programs most often watched by said user; and

means for generating an interactive program menu that displays a group of programs based on said identified frequently-watched programs;

means for receiving a signal from a user input device selecting a program available at a future time selected from said group of programs based on said identified frequently-watched programs;

means for notifying said subscriber that a change of channel is eminent based upon nearing said future time of said selected program available at said future time;
and

means for changing said channel to said selected program at said future time.

17. (previously presented) The terminal of claim 16, wherein the means for matching comprises means for matching based on information regarding content of the individual programs provided in said program control information signal.

18. – 20. (canceled)